Agreements for institutional assistance

230. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agreements Government have signed with International Organizations in the field of Science and Technology during the last three years.

(b) the details of institutional assistance received during the said period; and

(c) the details of the progress made with the help of these institutional assistance in the field of Science and Technology during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Comprehensive S&T Agreement

231. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and US signed a comprehensive Science and Technology agreement that would include, collaboration in research in health and weather monitoring;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) in what way this move would improve our technology in terms of health and weather monitoring; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, an Inter-Government Agreement for Science and Technology Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United States of America has been signed at Washington DC on October 17, 2005. Cooperation activities under agreement includes climate and health along with other areas of mutual interest of the parties. The Agreement

shall come into force when the Parties notify each other through written diplomatic channels of the completion of their respective national legal requirements necessary for the entry into force of this Agreement.

(c) Agreement provides for creating specific arrangements for collaborative activities in the form of exchange of scientific information, joint R&D projects, exploratory visits, technology transfer etc.

(d) The Agreement shall remain in force for a period of 10 years. It may be extended for further ten-year periods by written agreement of the Parties.

Research in Nanotechnology

232. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AIIMS and IIT have launched an initiative for collaborative research in Nanotechnology;

(b) if so, the details of the areas that they are going to cover; and

(c) in what way the Nano intervention techniques help in controlling the diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. There was one discussion meeting between the Director, AIIMS and Director, IIT, New Delhi along with few other scientists to launch collaborative research programmes in Nanotechnology. Some of the areas which were discussed relate to Nano-structured materials and coatings for Bio-sensors and Medical implants, Nano drug delivery systems, Tissue Engineering and Toxicological Studies.

(c) Nanotechnology has the potential to provide nano-instruments to examine cancer cells, to deliver oxygen to the needy heart muscles or creating artificial cell organelle etc. which would open enormous possibilities in medical care. Nanotechnology can be used to increase the functionality of biomaterials and to improve their ability to integrate into surrounding tissue in human body. Nanoparticles and nanotubes material can be applied to improve the effectiveness and selectivity of the drug delivery system.